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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,532	02/08/2001	Richard Oliver		5064

7590
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Arlington, VA 22202

10/07/2002

EXAMINER

HALPERN, MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

9

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/762,532

Applicant(s)

OLIVER, RICHARD

Examiner

Mark Halpern

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mk-9

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2002.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.

2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-43 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 39 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-27, 29-38, 40-43 is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 28 is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- 1) Acknowledgement is made of Amendment received 8/21/2002, Paper No. 8. Applicant amends claims 19-38, and offers new claims 39-43, for consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent. —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- 2) Claims 19-23, 25-27, 32-35, 37-38, 40-42, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haws (EP 0 405 929 A2).

Claims 19-23, 26-27, 32-35, 38, 40-42: Haws discloses a method for applying liquid strands containing additives to cigarette rods resulting in a cigarette product wherein the tobacco rod is surrounding the liquid strand (Abstract) extending down the length of the cigarette (col. 2, lines 15-24). In the process tobacco is blown from a chimney 10 onto an advancing perforated vacuum belt 12 causing tobacco to accumulate on the belt. A liquid strand is placed near the tobacco rod accumulating area and pumped from storage 50 through pipe 51 and out through nozzle 58. The pipe 51 is a guide that constrains the strand to the desired path. The air under suction causes the liquid extrudate to ascent and become impinged upon the tobacco for a certain distance along deposition run. As more tobacco is added it completely surrounds the liquid strand (col. 3, line 25 to col. 5, line 51, and Figures 1, 2, 6) into a

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final cigarette rod product. A variety of materials may be in the strand including flavorants and burn modifiers (col. 2, lines 36-45, and col. 6, line 45 to col. 7, line 25).

Claims 25, 37: the flow of the strand can be adjusted to any speed by the control of the pump (col. 6, lines 17-45).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3) Claims 19-27, 29-38, 40-43, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haws.

Claims 19-23, 26-27, 29-35, 38, 40-42: Haws discloses a method for applying liquid strands containing additives to cigarette rods resulting in a cigarette product wherein the tobacco rod is surrounding the liquid strand (Abstract) extending down the length of the cigarette (col. 2, lines 15-24). In the process tobacco is blown from a chimney 10 onto an advancing perforated vacuum belt 12 causing tobacco to accumulate on the belt. A liquid strand is placed near the tobacco rod accumulating area and pumped from storage 50 through pipe 51 and out through nozzle 58. It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the pipe 51 is a guide that constrains the strand to the desired path. The air under suction causes the liquid extrudate and become impinged upon the tobacco for a certain

distance along deposition run. It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the air suction flow would cause the strand to ascend toward the vacuum belt. As more tobacco is added it completely surrounds the liquid strand (col. 3, line 25 to col. 5, line 51, and Figures 1, 2, 6) into a final cigarette rod product. A variety of materials may be in the strand including flavorants and burn modifiers (col. 2, lines 36-45, and col. 6, line 45 to col. 7, line 25). The specific constraining distance is an obvious matter of apparatus design choice selected to produce the desired characteristics in the desired final product.

Claims 24, 36, 43: the strand is under the suction effect of the vacuum, however, it would have been obvious that the angle of ascent of the strand would be minimal, not more than 5 degrees. It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the degree of suction be adjusted as more tobacco material is added.

Claims 25, 37: the flow of the strand can be adjusted to any speed by the control of the pump (col. 6, lines 17-45).

Allowable Subject Matter

- 4) Claim 28, is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- 5) Claim 39 is allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The primary reason for indicating allowable subject matter is that the cited prior art does not show a method of incorporating a fibroform smoke-modifying material in a smoking material rod, wherein the fibriform is fed as a sequence of discrete fibriform elements (claims 28, 39).

Response to Amendment

- 6) Claims 19-37, rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn in view of amended claims.
- 7) The indicated allowability of claims 33-36, is withdrawn.
- 8) Applicant's arguments filed 8/21/2002, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In regard to the independent claims, Applicant alleges that cited prior art, Haws, does not provide any teaching of the incorporation of a fibroform smoke-modifying material or element into a smoking material rod, that Haws discloses the application of a liquid strand into a cigarette rod.

The argument is not well taken. Haws clearly discloses the application of a liquid strand into the cigarette rod. In view that the Specification does not provide any teaching to define what constitutes a fibriform smoke-modifying material or element, the examiner maintains that the liquid strand of Haws is a fibriform smoke modifying material or element.

Applicant alleges that that the material feeding to the rod-making machine is not in a longitudinal direction of the travel of the suction band of the machine, as shown in Figures 1, 2, and 4 of Haws, since the pipe feeding the liquid strand is perpendicular to the path of the travel.

The examiner responds as follows. The pipe configuration is both, perpendicular or horizontal to the travel path, however the pipe configuration is of no importance. As shown in Figure 2 of Haws, the nozzle 58, emitting the liquid strand material is oriented longitudinally in the direction of travel of the suction band of the machine.

Applicant alleges that the Haws reference does not disclose a guide for feeding the fibriform material into the rod-making machine.

The examiner responds as follows. As per item 2 above, and as shown in Figure 2 of Haws, the piping 51 is a strand guide for feeding the material into the rod-making machine.

Conclusion

9) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone number is 703-305-4522. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7718 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Halpern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Halpern
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1731

October 3, 2002